

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A lithographic printing plate precursor, comprising on a substrate, an oleophilic layer containing a cross-linked product, that was obtained by crosslinking a polymer having a heat decomposable group that is an azo, diazo, dioxy, disulfide, hydrazide, nitro, onium salt, sulfonic ester, disulfonyl, or thiosulfonic group in the main chain with a cross-linking agent, said polymer, prior to crosslinking, has a functional group that is capable of reacting with said cross-linking agent,

the printing plate precursor further comprising a hydrophilic layer between said substrate and said oleophilic layer,

said printing plate precursor also containing a photo-to-heat converting material either in said oleophilic layer or said hydrophilic layer.

2. (previously presented) The printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein said heat decomposable group is an azo group.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein said substrate has a hydrophilic surface.

5.-7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A method for preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising:

 exposing the lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, to IR radiation and removing the exposed part of said oleophilic layer.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising

 mounting the exposed lithographic printing plate precursor directly on a printer without developing.

10 (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The lithographic printing plate precursor of claim 1 wherein said polymer having a heat decomposable group is used in combination with another thermally decomposable compound.